

REMARKS

Claims 1-26 are pending. By this Amendment, claims 3 and 11 are cancelled, and claims 1-2, 5, 9-10, 15, and 22 are amended.

Drawings

The drawings have been amended to include references signs 10 and 16. Applicants respectfully requests that the objection to the drawings be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections -- 35 USC § 102

Claims 1, 3-5, 7, 9, and 11-14 stand rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by Adams et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,248,083). Applicants have amended independent claims 1 and 9, and, in view of this amendment, Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection. In order for a reference to anticipate it must disclose every element of the claimed invention; Adams et al. does not disclose the use of a pressure sensor for controlling an environmental pressure characteristic of an enclosed environment as now claimed within independent claims 1 and 9. Rather, Adams et al. recites only the use of a temperature sensor 40, see Col. 2, lines 43-49.

By utilizing a pressure sensor and controlling the pressure characteristic, Applicants are able to control the volumetric flow rate of the system to balance out the combustion air; the invention of Adams et al. is unable to perform this function, rather Adams et al. must rely on its temperature sensor and the firing of burners to control temperature within the system.

In view of the above, Applicants respectfully submit that Adams et al. does not anticipate the invention recited in claims 1, 3-5, 7, 9, and 11-14, and requests that the rejection under 35 USC § 102 be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 103

Claims 2, 6, 8, 10, 15-21, and 22-26 stand rejected under 35 USC § 103. Specifically, independent claims 15 and 22 stand rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Adams et al. in view of Flanders. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection in view of the amendments made to independent claims 15 and 22.

Specifically, independent claims 15 and 22 have been amended to recite that the single controller not only interfaces with each of the individual appliances but additionally *monitors* each of the individual appliances so that it may control the operation of each of the individual appliances. See the Background section of the Applicants' application on page 8, line 9 through page 9, line 2, wherein it is explained that the monitoring of the appliances through the controller enables maintenance of the historical operation of the appliance and, resultingly, informed, individualized operation of the appliances.

Adams et al. does not teach or suggest this feature, nor does Flanders. The Flanders controller only compares a temperature to a pre-programmed temperature set point to determine operation of an appliance no actual monitoring of the appliance itself is performed by the controller, see Col. 11, line 64 through Col. 12, line 2.

In view of the above, Applicants submit that the pending claims are indeed patentable over the cited prior art and requests that the rejection to the claims under 35 USC § 103 be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned if the Examiner believes it would be useful to advance prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,



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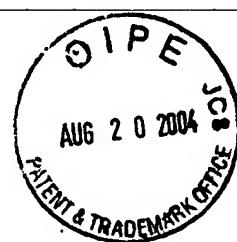


Figure 1

